

# WITNESSES DENY STATEMENTS BY LAWSON; PROBE ABOUT ENDED

### Financier Flatly Denies Ever Having Boasted of Influence With Secretary of Treasury, McAdoo

## PLINEY FISK TELLS OF RENTING OFFICES

### Bernstorff's Name Figures Again in Investigation, but Purpose of Whipple's Questions Is Not Disclosed

[BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE]

New York, Jan. 29.—Some of the most sensational charges of Thomas W. Lawson, made in testifying recently in the house rules committee "leak" investigation, were vehemently denied today by Pinney Fisk and Archibald S. White, two widely known New York financiers, when they appeared here before the congressional inquirers.

Mr. Fisk, named by Lawson as the banker member of an alleged trio composed of a cabinet member, Secretary McAdoo, a member of congress, known as "Senator Q." and a banker

White, who was declared by Lawson to have told him that Fisk had boasted to him that he controlled Secretary McAdoo, and had offered to call the secretary from his bed by telephone at 1:30 o'clock in the morning to prove his assertion, insisted that Lawson was "romancing."

**Probe to End Soon.**  
As a result of this denial, committeemen tonight expressed the belief that the length of the hearings here had been shortened materially. Some said they would close within three or four days, if unexpected developments do not arise. Examination of certain stock exchange records for thirteen days preceding the sending of the

president's peace note, of several bankers and brokers regarding general financial conditions during this period and further examination of Barney Baruch, a "short seller," and a few minor witnesses, is expected to bring the end here. The committee now is intending to bring the inquiry to a close with an investigation only of the alleged peace note, "Leak."

**Bernstorff's Name Appears.**  
The name of Count von Bernstorff was again brought into the inquiry today in questions put to Mr. White, but with what purpose was not made known. Sherman L. Whipple, counsel for the committee, wanted to know if just prior to the publication of the president's note, Mr. White had arranged a meeting between the German ambassador and Lawson. Mr. White, of course, could not say.

White, after saying that he had frequently entertained Bernstorff at his home here and that they were friends of long standing, testified that Lawson had sought to have him arrange a meeting with the ambassador, but that the request had been made at least a year and a half ago. He said the request had come to him through Lawson's "confidential man, McSweeney," and that he had told McSweeney to arrange the meeting himself. White said he did not know whether the

Mr. Whipple inquired closely into Mr. White's friendship with Lawson during the period prior to the publication of the note. He developed that the two frequently met in New York, but White would not admit that they discussed the stock market speculation and the effect that the war and peace situation would have on

While Mr. Flak admitted close business associations with Mr. McAdoo prior to the latter's entering the cabinet, the banker insisted that since that time their relations had been largely social and that he had leaned backward insofar as seeking favors from the secretary was concerned. The last business dealing he had with Mr. McAdoo was in connection with the sale of an excess of \$112,000 worth of securities which, he said, the secretary left with the firm of

Harvey Fisk & Sons for disposal when he became a cabinet member. This account was closed on January 15, 1914.

**Lease of Building.**

Mr. Whipple, however, elicited from the banker a statement that the Federal Reserve bank of New York had taken a lease for a year and a half of the offices owned by the banker's firm. Mr. Fisk admitted that he had suggested to the secretary that the offices were well adapted to the use of the bank, but said this suggestion had been made "weeks before the lease was executed."

The committee then called the manager of the Fisk office building, Kenyon B. Conger, who recited the negotiations for the lease. He said he had made an offer of the offices to the Federal Reserve bank, which was at first declined, but later an

agreement was reached which led to